General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/64
20 April 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Agenda item 5

STATUS OF PREPARATION OF PUBLICATIONS, STUDIES AND DOCUMENTS FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Status of publications

Report of the Secretary-General

GE.93-12897

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4(e) of its resolution 46/116, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to prepare the following publications:

a) A reference guide to all United Nations studies and reports on human rights and related aspects;

b) An update of the publication entitled United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights;

c) An update of the publications entitled Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments and Human Rights: Status of International Instruments, including also texts of regional instruments on human rights.

2. The reference guide is intended as a practical research tool for all persons working with the various reports, documents and studies dealing with human rights issues produced under the aegis of the United Nations. It also covers institutional aspects of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other organizations active in the field of human rights.

3. United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights consists of an expanded and updated version of the previous edition which was published in 1988. It reviews the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights from the establishment of the Organization on 26 June 1945 up to 31 December 1991.

4. Human Rights: A Compilation of International Instruments will contain regional as well as international human rights instruments. Human Rights: the Status of International Instruments will provide more information on the main body of international human rights law, including extensive details on each human rights instrument covered. Both of these publications have been updated to 31 March 1993.

5. In addition to the above-mentioned publications, a book on women and human rights has been finalized by the Non-Governmental Liaison Service in Geneva. It deals with gender discrimination and is intended to be of practical use to all actors involved in the protection of the human rights of women.

6. The United Nations Library in Geneva is compiling a bibliography, in five volumes, consisting of materials published on the activities of the United Nations in the field of human rights during the past decade (1980-1990). The bibliography, containing approximately 10,000 entries, will be another useful research tool for all persons interested in obtaining information on the human rights activities of the United Nations.

7. The publications are expected to be made available to the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/65
18 March 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 46/116, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee on progress made on meetings that have been organized under the auspices of the United Nations programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155.

2. The present report contains a list of meetings, those organized by the Centre for Human Rights and those held by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to which the Centre for Human Rights has been invited, of direct concern to the preparatory process for the World Conference. It includes both meetings which have already been held in accordance with the mandate set up by the General Assembly and meetings which are scheduled to be held.

3. Meetings which have already been held for the purposes of the World Conference include, in chronological order:

(1) World Congress on Human Rights (New Delhi, December 1990). The report of the congress was submitted by the International Service for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and is available in document A/CONF.157/PC/6/Add.7/Rev.1;

(2) Nordic Seminar on Human Rights (Laugarvatn, Iceland, 9-10 June 1991). The seminar was organized by the Nordic Institutes of Human Rights. The report was submitted by the Government of Iceland and is available in document A/CONF.157/PC/7;

(3) Training Course on the Handling of Human Rights Information and Documentation for Library Staff (Geneva, October 1991). The course was organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of Lund, Sweden, and co-sponsored by the United Nations Library at Geneva and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in cooperation with several intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(4) International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris, 7-9 October 1991). The workshop was held at the invitation of the Government of France and in cooperation with the French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights. The report of the workshop is available in document E/CN.4/1992/43 and Add.1 and 2;

(5) Regional Seminar of Experts on Human Rights, Democracy, and Economic and Social Development (Santiago de Chile, 10-13 December 1991). The seminar was organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the invitation of the Government of Chile;

(6) European Conference on International Human Rights Standards (Barcelona, Spain, 13-17 January 1992). The report of the conference, which was co-sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights, the City of Barcelona and the United Nations Association of Spain, is a forthcoming publication of the Centre for Human Rights;

(7) Workshop on Global Strategies for Achieving Fairness in the Courts: Domestic Violence (Geneva, 5 February 1992). The workshop was organized by the University of Calgary (see A/CONF.137/PC/32);

(8) Seminar on Academic Freedom (Lund, Sweden, 9-11 March 1992), in connection with the UNESCO Conference on Human Rights and Democracy, to be held in Montreal, Canada, in February 1993. The seminar was organized by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and co-sponsored by UNESCO, the Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities, and the World University Service. The report has been published by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute;

(9) International Conference on Academic Freedom and University Autonomy (Sinaia, Romania, 5-7 May 1992), in connection with the UNESCO Conference on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, to be held in Montreal, Canada, in March 1993. The conference was co-sponsored by the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO and the National Rectors' Conference of Romania in cooperation with the Standing Conference of Rectors, Presidents and Vice-Chancellors of the European Universities and the Council of Europe. A report of the Sinaia conference has been published by the UNESCO European Centre for Higher Education;

(10) Technical Conference on Practical Experience in the Realization of Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Self-Development by Indigenous Peoples (Santiago de Chile, 18-22 May 1992). The conference was organized by the Centre for Human Rights at the invitation of the Government of Chile. The report of the conference is available in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/31 and Add.1;

(11) Conference on Regional Systems of Human Rights Protection in Africa, America and Europe (Strasbourg, France, 15-19 June 1992). The conference was organized by the Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung of Germany in cooperation with the European Commission on Human Rights. The report of the conference is a publication of the Friedrich-Naumann Stiftung, an executive summary is also available;

(12) Conference on the Role of Voluntary Organizations in Emerging Democracies: Experience and Strategies in Eastern and Central Europe and in South Africa (Prague, 21-24 June 1992). The conference was co-sponsored by the Danish Centre for Human Rights and the Institute of International Education;

(13) Asia-Pacific Human Rights Conference (Osaka, Japan, 22-26 June 1992). This conference was sponsored by the Buraku Liberation Research Institute. The report of the conference was prepared by the Centre for Human Rights and is available in document A/CONF.157/PC/46/Add.1;

(14) Conference on the Media and Human Rights (Sintra, Portugal, 29 June-5 July 1992). The conference was hosted by the International Academy for Development in Freedom;

(15) Meeting on the Role of Medical Ethics in the Protection of Human Rights (London, 5-7 July 1992). The meeting was organized by the Steering Group of the Commonwealth Medical Association. The report of the meeting has been prepared by the Centre for Human Rights and is available in document A/CONF.157/PC/46;

(16) Consultation on Women's International Human Rights (Toronto, Canada, 31 August-2 September 1992). The meeting was organized by the North-South Institute, the Faculty of Law of the University of Toronto and other organizations concerned with women's rights; a report on the consultation will be published in the Human Rights Quarterly, Vol.15, No.1, (1993);

(17) Linking Hands for Changing Laws: Women's Rights as Human Rights Around the World (Toronto, Canada, 2-4 September 1992). This meeting was co-sponsored by the North-South Institute and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development;

(18) Third International Dialogue on the Transition to Global Society: the Transition to a Just Society (Landegg Academy, Wienacht, Switzerland, 7-12 September 1992). The dialogue was co-sponsored by a number of non-governmental organizations, including the Baha'i International Community, Human Rights Advocates, the Institute of International Education, the International Council of Women and the International Foundation for the Survival and Development of Humanity;

(19) A consultative meeting of Attorneys-General and/or Ministers of Justice of East, Central and Southern African States on the Administration of Justice and Human Rights in preparation for the African Regional M eting was organized by Mr. S.A. Wako, Attorney-General of Kenya, in Nairobi, in

October 1992; the final document entitled the "Joint statement of African Ministers for Justice on the administration of justice and humar rights" is available in document A/CONF.157/AFRM/5;

(20) Commonwealth Workshop on National Human Rights Institutions (Ottawa, Canada, 30 September-2 October 1992). The Workshop was hosted by the North-South Institute;

(21) A regional seminar for West Africa on Human Rights was held in Lomé, Togo, from 15-17 October 1992. The General Resolution of the West-African advisory meeting on human rights is available in document A/CONF.157/AFRM/4;

(22) First International Colloquium on Human Rights in La Laguna: The Reform of International Institutions for the Protection of Human Rights (La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, 1-4 November 1992). The Colloquium was co-sponsored by UNESCO and the University of La Laguna.

(23) International Forum on Education for Democracy. This meeting was organized by UNESCO and the Tunisian Republic and took place in Tunis from 8-10 November 1992;

(24) A Nordic Refugee Law Seminar, convened by the Nordic Institutes of Human Rights, was held in Lund, Sweden, from 16-17 November 1992, a report is forthcoming;

(25) The International Academy for Development in Freedom held its fifth human rights conference on "International Human Rights Policies for the Next Decade: the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights" in Sintra, Portugal, from 18-24 November 1992;

(26) The Asian Regional Seminar on Children in Bondage (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand) (Islamabad, 23-27 November 1992) was organized by the International Labour Organisation in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights;

(27) The International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences organized a Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Tribunal to Enforce International Criminal Law and Human Rights in Siracusa, Sicily, from 2-5 December 1992;

(28) The Comité de Enlace, CLADEM and ILSA organized a women's conference entitled "Our Issue" (La Nuestra) to examine the Human Rights Strategy of Women in San José, Costa Rica, from 3-5 December 1992;

(29) The African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation organized a Conference on Human Rights Issues in Banjul, The Gambia, from 10-12 December 1992;

(30) An expert meeting entitled "International Seminar on Academic Freedom" was organized by the Poznan Human Rights Centre in preparation for the UNESCO International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy in Poznan, Poland, from 7-9 January 1993;

(31) The Ninth Nordic Seminar on Human Rights was organized by the Nordic Institutes of Human Rights and hosted by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Lund, Sweden, from 18-20 January 1993;

(32) The Government of Indonesia convened the Second Asia-Pacific Workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 26-28 January 1993; the unedited draft report (English version only) is available in document A/CONF.157/ASRM/3;

(33) The Council of Europe organized an interregional meeting entitled "Human Rights at the Dawn of the 21st Century" in Strasbourg, France, from 28-30 January 1993;

(34) The Swedish Government organized a conference in Stockholm on "Development Cooperation for Human Rights and Democracy" from 22-24 February 1993;

(35) A coalition of Washington, D.C.-based non-governmental organizations organized by Amnesty International USA convened a meeting entitled "Washington NGO Coalition for the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights" on 23 February 1993 to propose recommendations to reform the United Nations human rights system;

(36) The Commonwealth Secretariat conducted a meeting for the World Conference on the promotion of Commonwealth values: "Democracy, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Just and Honest Government" in Geneva from 2-3 March 1993;

(37) The College of Law of the University of Saskatchewan and International Alert (London) organized the Martin Ennals Memorial Symposium on Self-Determination in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, from 3-6 March 1993.

4. Meetings for the purposes of the preparatory process for the World Conference which are being planned or to which invitations have been received include, in chronological order:

(1) UNESCO International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy (Montreal, Canada, 8-11 March 1993). This meeting is co-sponsored by UNESCO in cooperation with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO;

(2) The Center for the Development of International Law convened in Washington, D.C., on 9 March 1993, a "North-South issues Roundtable: Development and Human Rights NGOs on relationship between human rights, economic, environment and development issues";

(3) Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), an NGO based in Harare, Zimbabwe, will convene a series of meetings on women's issues in Africa, in Southern Africa (10-12 March 1993), Eastern Africa (17-19 March 1993), Western Africa (22-24 March 1993) and Morocco (27-29 March 1993);

(4) The International Centre (INTER CENTER) and the Political Science Department of the University of Messina will host a meeting on "Human Rights in the Mediterranean" (economic, social and cultural aspects) in Messina, Taormina (Sicily), from 12-15 March 1993;

(5) A colloquium on "The Reform of the World Institutions for the Protection of Human Rights" will be hosted by the Romanian Institute for Human Rights from 15-17 March 1993 in Bucharest, Romania;

(6) The American Society of International Law will hold an Academic Conference on Human Rights in Airlie, Virginia (United States of America), from 17-19 March 1993;

(7) Human Rights Internet and the Human Rights Research and Education Centre are organizing a Canadian NGO meeting to be held at the University of Ottawa, Canada, from 21-23 March 1993;

(8) The Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development is organizing an Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Women's Rights, Human Rights and the Right to Development in Bangkok, Thailand, from 25-27 March 1993;

(9) The University of Jinane in Tripoli, Lebanon, is organizing a meeting on "The Rights of Women in the Arabian Near-East" from 30-31 March 1993;

(10) The Coalition against Trafficking in Women-Asia will be holding a conference entitled "Women Empowering Women: A Human Rights Conference on the Trafficking in Asian Women" to be held at the University of Manila in the Philippines from 2-4 April 1993;

(11) A Seminar on "Universality" will be organized by the International League for Human Rights and the Yale University Policy Sciences Centre at Yale in New Haven, Connecticut (United States of America) in April 1993;

(12) A meeting entitled "Strengthening the Universality of Human Rights" is being organized by the Asian Section of Rights and Humanity in Amman, Jordan, from 5-7 April 1993. This meeting will be chaired by H.R.H. Prince Hassan Bin Talal, Crown Prince of Jordan;

(13) An NGO meeting is being organized by Mothers for Democracy and the Committee of Churches in Asunción, Paraguay, from 15-16 April 1993;

(14) CIRCLE (Cultural Information and Research Centres Liaison in Europe) Network and the International Movement of Rights and Humanity are jointly organizing a European Round Table discussion in Helsinki, Finland, on "Human Rights and Cultural Policies in a Changing Europe" from 30 April-2 May 1993 with the support of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the German, Finnish and British Governments;

(15) The Inter-Parliamentary Union is organizing a symposium on "The Parliament: Guardian of Human Rights" to be held in Budapest, Hungary, from 19-23 May 1993;

(16) The International Religious Liberty Association is planning to hold a Pacific Region Religious Liberty Congress in Suva, Fiji, from 7-10 June 1993.

5. The Centre for Human Rights will inform the Preparatory Committee of any additional initiatives aiming at holding meetings which may further contribute to the preparatory process leading to the World Conference, as soon as the details are available.